

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6225

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PE, SHUM
SUBJECT: ESTIMATE OF DEATHS, INJURIES, AND DETENTIONS
IN RECENT DISTURBANCES

1. THE EXACT TOLL OF DEATHS, INJURIES, AND DETENTIONS
RESULTING FROM DISTURBANCES AROUND PERU SINCE THE GOP
ANNOUNCED ITS AUSTERITY PROGRAM JUNE 10 IS EXTREMELY
DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE. ONLY SINCE THE HUANCAYO DIS-
TURBANCES JULY 11-12 HAS THE GOP BEEN PUBLISHING NAMES
AND NUMBERS AND THESE DATA ARE SUSPECT. DESPITE
FACT THAT SECURITY FORCES GENERALLY ACTED WITH RESTRAINT,
THERE IS A TOTAL OF AT LEAST 13 KNOWN DEAD FROM JUNE
UNREST IN CUZCO AND JULY DISTURBANCES IN HUANCAYO AND
LIMA (INCLUDING JULY 19 STRIKE). IN ADDITION,
UNOFFICIAL REPORTS INDICATE A MINIMUM OF TWO DEAD IN
JULY 12 DISTURBANCES IN TRUJILLO. WE HAVE NO
FIGURES ON FATALITIES RESULTING FROM DISTURBANCES THAT
OCCURRED IN AREQUIPA, AYACUCHO, PUNO, TACNA, AND
OTHER SOUTHERN CITIES BUT THERE ARE RUMORS OF
NUMBER OF DEATHS. FIGURES FOR
INJURIES, SERIOUS AND MINOR, SIMPLY DO NOT EXIST.
HOWEVER, REPORTS OF VARYING RELIABILITY INDICATE
HUNDREDS OF PERSONS MAY HAVE BEEN INJURED TO SOME
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DEGREE. AS FOR DETENTIONS, BY OFFICIAL RECKONING
150 INDIVIDUALS WERE DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ILLEGAL
JULY 19 LIMA STRIKE. THE TRUE FIGURE IS PROBABLY IN
EXCESS OF 400. IN ADDITION, A MINIMUM OF 200 TEACHERS
WERE DETAINED IN LIMA ALONE FOLLOWING THE JULY 5
TEACHERS' STRIKE AND IT IS NOT KNOWN HOW MANY REMAIN IN DETENTION.

2. WHILE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NATION-WIDE DETENTIONS SINCE JUNE 10 MAY WEELL BE IN EXCESS OF 1000, MOST OF THESE WERE YOUTHS OR WORKERS WHO WERE RELEASED SEVERAL HOURS OR A DAY AFTER BEING DETAINED. SO FAR THERE HAVE BEEN NO PUBLICIZED CHARGES OF MALTREATMENT OF DETAINEES. MOST COMPLAINTS, BY FAMILY, FRIENDS, CHURCH, AND A FEW INDEPENDENT PRESS DIRECTORS, CENTER ON EXTENDED DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGE AND LACK OF OFFICIAL INFORMATION AS TO THE STATUS OF INDIVIDUALS WHOSE WEREABOUTS IS UNKNOWN. IN CASE OF LABOR LEADERS ARRESTED IN WAKE OF JULY 19 STRIKE, GOP HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WILL BE FORMALLY CHARGED IN COURT.

3. EMBOFFS IN PROCESS OF TALKING WITH LABOR LEADERS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, POLICE AND SECURITY OFFICERS, CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES, AND LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS LEADERS TO REFINE ABOVE INFORMATION AND TO ASSESS HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION FOLLOWING THE RECENT STRIKES AND RELATED DISTURBANCES. SHLAUDEMAN

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